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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Canceled Claims

Claims 1-13 were prosecuted in the parent application, and are canceled herein.

Previously Cited Prior Art

In prosecution of the parent application, now issued as US 6626887, the Office rejected then-pending apparatus claims as being anticipated by Kwan. Kwan does indeed teach a drill bit having a beveled distal end, and another opening through which debris from a drilling operation can exit the drill bit. But Kwan does not contemplate an opening at a proximal end of the shaft, and the shaft being hollowed so that fluid can pass from the proximal end to the distal end.

The Office also cited other references, all of which are circumvented by the currently amended claims.

- Gibbs (US 6217561) teaches a drill bit that has a short lumen, but not long enough to have a proximal opening. Thus, there is no contemplation of a lumen that can pass a fluid from a proximal opening through the shaft to a distal opening.
- Weathers (US 6419790) and Shaw (US 5261818) each teach solid drill bits, which of course have none of the recited openings.
- Haaga (US 6162206) teaches a biopsy needle with a cargo hold but no proximal opening. Thus, here again there is no contemplation of a structure that can pass a fluid from a proximal opening, through the shaft to a distal opening.
- Gayson (US 6210376) and Melker (5601559) each teach drill bits having proximal and distal openings through which fluid can be passed. But those references use a chiseled cutting point and a threaded shaft that carries debris away from the cutting cite along the outside of the shaft, not through the lumen and out an exit opening.
- Saito (US 5820609) teaches a hollow drill bit with beveled cutting surface. There is, however, no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to provide a third opening through which debris can exit.

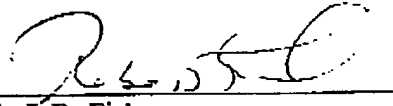
- Sachedeva (US 5607435) is an endoscopic instrument that is quite irrelevant to the subject matter as currently claimed.

The Applicant filed an IDS that listed Young (US 2773500). Young has a lumen and first and second openings at opposite ends of the drill bit, but Young's contemplated devices have no beveled cutting surface and no third opening through which debris can exit the drill bit.

Request For Allowance

Claims 14-21 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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